

# the ROADRUNNER

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

April/May 2013



*It's Spring!*

*Photo by Jay Bailey*

**Nebraska Department of Roads**

Communication Division  
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**Governor Dave Heineman**

**Highway Commission**

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Deputy Director .....Khalil Jaber

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Business Technology Support .....Bill Wehling  
Communication .....Mary Jo Oie  
Construction .....Claude Oie  
Controller .....Marilyn Hayes  
Government Affairs .....Andy Cunningham  
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Local Projects .....Jim Wilkinson  
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Planning & Project Development .....Mike Owen  
Program Management .....Amy Starr  
Rail & Public Transportation .....Ellis Tompkins  
Right-of-Way .....Robert Frickel  
Roadway Design .....James Knott  
Traffic Engineering .....Dan Waddle

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District 1 .....Thomas Goodbarn  
District 2 .....Timothy W. Weander  
District 3 .....Kevin Domogalla  
District 4 .....Wesley Wahlgren  
District 5 .....Craig Lind  
District 6 .....Gary Thayer  
District 7 .....Kurt Vosburg  
District 8 .....Mark Kovar

Editor .....Linda M. Wilson  
Type & Layout .....Diane German

The information in this newsletter is contributed  
by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



From the Director

# Our Goals, Our Performance A Measure of Pride



**Randy Peters**

The latest Nebraska Resident Satisfaction Survey Report is in. This 2012 survey is the fifth in a series that dates back to 1997. As usual, we are reading it closely so that we can learn what Nebraskans are thinking about NDOR's performance.

The good news is that our approval rating remains very high in the eleven aspects of our business that we asked about. Of this we can all be proud.

We should be proud, but we won't become complacent. While overall satisfaction with our work is 87% positive, the numbers on 8 of the 11 attributes, that customers responded to, showed a decline from 2008 levels. One dropped data point in a series of five does not constitute a trend, I know, but I do hope this survey will cause us each to ask ourselves what we could do differently each day to improve customer satisfaction.

Our performance measurements tell us that the condition of Nebraska highways has declined over the last decade. We have gone from a peak of 85% of total highway miles with good pavement condition in 2005 to 74% in 2011. It's not surprising then that the percent of survey respondents who are satisfied with the condition of Nebraska's highways has decreased 4% from the last survey. With our *Asset Preservation* strategic goal, NDOR is taking steps to improve this measure.

NDOR, in collaboration with its partners, has worked hard to reduce crash rates and fatalities on the state's highway system. There were 211 fatalities in 2012, an increase from 181 fatalities in 2011. This may account for the 3% decrease down to 90% satisfaction with the NDOR in providing a safe transportation system. Under our *Increase Safety* strategic goal we are committed to focus even more on this measure.

Satisfaction scores remain high for snow and ice removal, up 1% to 91% satisfied or very satisfied. Confidence in NDOR remains strong, with 86% of respondents agreeing that NDOR does a good job of building and maintaining the highway system, up 2% from 2008. Respondents continue their high satisfaction with Nebraska's I-80 rest areas, with nine out of ten (92%) satisfied or very satisfied.

The 511 traveler information system achieved the highest percent of positive scores from the survey, with a stellar 96% of respondents statewide who have used the system, finding it useful. Bravo!

Our efforts to frame NDOR's performance measures around eight strategic goals continue. NDOR's district engineers, division heads and deputies are in the process of validating, adding and eliminating performance measures. We are doing this because we are committed to moving in a positive direction to achieve the important goals we have carefully identified.

I would like to thank the NDOR employees who collect, measure and evaluate these performance measures. A special thanks, as well, to all of you who perform and manage the work that earns the Department of Roads its positive approval ratings and inspires the pride we share. ♦



# NDOR Transportation Research Fuels Future Progress

By Jodi Gibson  
Materials & Research Division

NDOR's Research Section is excited to announce 11 new research projects scheduled to start in July. These projects range from studying the Swift Fox, an endangered species in Nebraska, to the investigation of multi-lane roundabouts, as well as the development of a Best Management Practice Guide for the use of deicers for winter operations.

In June of last year, the Research Section solicited statewide for Statements of Need related to transportation research. Over 50 Statements of Need were submitted to the Research Section for FY-2014 funding. It was the work of nearly

75 individuals representing NDOR, county, city, consultants, contractors and academia that helped to develop the projects that will be funded this upcoming year.

Due to efforts of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, we also had five research projects that were completed last December. These projects included looking at the Life Cycle Assessment of Nebraska Bridges, further studying of the American Burying Beetle, evaluation of Environmental Impacts of Bridge Deck Runoff, a look at Maximum Safe Guardrail Heights, and investigation of Characteristics of Fatigued Commercial Motor Vehicle

Drivers. All of these projects have aided the division and the districts with issues they face every day. Copies of all our completed research projects can be found on the NDOR Materials and Research website: [www.transportation.nebraska.gov/mat-n-tests/](http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/mat-n-tests/).

In the next couple of months we will also be seeing the completion of a number of environmental, structural, traffic and design projects; stay tuned for the final results.

As always, the Research Section is willing to help with all of your transportation research needs. If you have any research needs, please let us know. ♦



Multi-lane Roundabout Project



Swift Fox



Best Management Practices for Using Deicers Project

# Paving Awards Presented in Kearney

Project managers, construction technicians, and material and research technicians were honored with awards for both concrete and asphalt pavements at the annual Project Managers' Conference held March 5-7 in Kearney. The awards recognized their work on Nebraska highways during 2012.

The Nebraska Department of Roads sponsors the awards for excellence in asphaltic concrete pavement construction. Awards of excellence for highway construction projects using concrete pavement are sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Nebraska Concrete Paving Association.

## Concrete Pavement Quality Awards

The award for excellence in **Interstate Highways and Expressways** was presented to Tom Farber of District 4 in Kearney for his part as Project Manager for **Kearney East Viaduct Removal**. This award was presented for paving work that was done in preparation for the new Kearney Interchange and was constructed under traffic maintained conditions. Major paving items included 42,000 square yards of subgrade preparation and 33,000 square yards of both foundation course and 13-inch doweled concrete pavement. Werner Construction, Inc., of Hastings, Nebraska, was the contractor. NDOR Roadway Design's Interstate Section designed the project under the oversight of Brian Johnson, Engineer IV, and Tim Otto, Highway Designer III. The construction inspection team included Construction Technicians Phil Wright, Kent Washington, Nick Smets, George McNeil, Jason Rotter, and Cal Splattstoesser, Hwy. Quality Assurance Manager at the Grand Island Materials and Research Branch Lab, who received Certificates of Merit for their inspection duties at the January NCPA Workshop.

Honored in the **Concrete Pavement**

**Rehabilitation** category was Project Manager Jerry Woodgate of District 4 in St. Paul for his management of **In Grand Island**. The project included 1,381 cross-stitches, 14 cubic yards of Type A full depth repairs, 47 cubic yards of Type B Repairs, 73 cubic yards of Type C Repairs, 4.5 cubic yards of partial depth repairs, 256 linear feet of crack sealing, 15,411 linear feet of joint sealing and 13,324 square yards of diamond grinding. The prime contractor for both the repairs and the diamond grinding was Iowa Erosion Control, Inc., of Victor, Iowa. NDOR's Materials and Research Pavement Design Section was responsible for the project design. Designer Certificates of Merit were presented to Linda (Zip) Masek, Matt Bouwens and Dennis Meinecke. Certificates of Merit were presented to Construction Technicians Peggy Jackson, Lynette Kowalski and Rodney Wilson at the January NCPA Workshop.

Receiving the award for the **Municipal Streets** category was Project Manager Bob Nordhues of the District 4 Grand Island office for **Wood River West**. The project was built by Paulsen, Inc. of Cozad, Nebraska, and consisted of the concrete paving leading to the new Wood River Railroad Viaduct. It included about 3,000 square yards of subgrade preparation, 44,000 square yards of stabilized subgrade, 45,000 square yards of foundation course, 6,600 square yards of 9-inch plain jointed concrete pavement and 38,000 square yards of 9-inch doweled concrete pavement. The project was designed by Angie Schmidt and Fred Beck of E&A Consulting Group, of Omaha, Nebraska, with Melissa Egelhoff, Engineer IV in NDOR's Roadway Design Division, as the Design Consultant Coordinator. Construction Technicians Dennis Osterman, Eric Klein, Dan Schleichardt and William (Smokey) Nordhuse were

recognized with Certificates of Merit for their inspection duties on this project at the January NCPA Workshop.

The award for the **Parking Lots and Miscellaneous Paving** category was presented to Project Manager Jim England, of the District 1 Lincoln office, for his work on **I-80, Greenwood-Mahoney; Platte River Rest Area**. The project was built by Hawkins Construction Company of Omaha, as part of the Interstate 6-lane reconstruction from the Greenwood to the Mahoney State Park Interchanges. This project included 2,900 square yards of 9-inch concrete paving for passenger car parking and 13,000 square yards of 13-inch concrete for the ramps and truck parking areas. The project also included numerous concrete sidewalks, curbs, medians and islands. The project was designed by Brian Johnson, Engineer IV, and Dan Lange, Highway Designer III. Construction Technicians Tim Yates, John Daake and Dale Luse were recognized with Certificates of Merit for their inspection duties on this project at the January NCPA Workshop.

Pavement smoothness, quality control, innovation, complexity, appearance, management and safety of the project were considered in determining these concrete pavement awards.

## Asphaltic Concrete Pavement Quality Awards

Five projects received awards for excellence in asphaltic concrete pavement. Nominated projects were judged by a panel who rated each project based on smoothness, quality control, complexity, innovation, general appearance, contractor management and safety.

The 2012 **Award of Merit for Full Depth Construction, Reclamation or Fractured Slab Overlay** went to Project Manager Lyle Kohmetscher of District 4 in Hastings for his work on



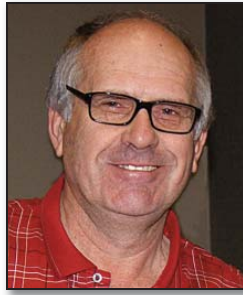
## Awards (cont'd. from page 4)

### N-74, East Junction US-281

**East.** This project included 18.6 miles of N-74 and consisted of 1,026 stations of cold foam recycling overlain with 44,500 tons of asphaltic concrete Type SPR (fine). This project was the first in Nebraska to use cold foam recycling as a strategy. The cold foam recycling was done by Mid-State Reclamation and the asphaltic concrete was placed by the prime contractor, Vontz Paving, Inc., of Hastings, Nebraska. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Mae Meyer and Carlos Adame for their part as inspectors on the project.

The 2012 Excellence in Asphalt Pavement Construction **Award of Merit for Overlays of Two or More Lifts**, went to Project Manager Jay Gustafson of District 8 in Valentine for **Kilgore East and Crookston West**, constructed by Werner Construction, Inc., of Hastings, Nebraska. Together these projects were 10.4 miles long along US-20 between Kilgore and Crookston. They consisted of a mill and overlay with 12,000 tons of SPS placed on the shoulders and 30,000 tons of SPR placed on mainline. This asphalt was placed by Werner Construction Inc. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Darrell Lurz and Brent Long for their part in performing inspection activities.

**N-24, Norfolk to Stanton** was recognized in the **Projects with Over 1,000 Patches** category, with Doug Lollman, of District 3 in Norfolk receiving an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. The 9-mile project extended between Norfolk and Stanton on N-24 and included 680 cubic yards of concrete patches. The project was cold milled, and 6,800 tons of asphaltic concrete Type LC leveling course was placed and overlain with 21,600 tons of SPR.



Tom Farber



Jerry Woodgate



Bob Nordhues



Jim England

Also, 14,600 tons of SPS were placed on the shoulders. This project was built by Werner Construction Company,

Inc. Construction Technicians Terry Becker, Brandon Remm and Solomon Choi received Certificates of Merit at the February Asphalt Conference for their inspection duties.

**Gothenburg East-West and Cozad to Darr**, were recognized as the **Best Interstate Asphalt Projects**. Josh Willard of District 6 in North Platte received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager and Paulsen, Inc. of Cozad, Nebraska, was recognized as the prime contractor. These two projects were adjacent to each other, both built and managed by the same contractor. The projects extended from 5 miles west of Gothenburg to 7 miles east of Cozad on Interstate 80. The existing pavement received 3,237 cubic yards of concrete pavement patches. The surface was cold milled and 126,400 tons of asphaltic concrete type SP5 was placed on the mainline, with shoulders receiving placement of 44,900 tons of SPS. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Chad Garcia, Mike McIntosh, Chris Hasenauer, Ray Berry, Mason Watson, Ken Tuma, Bill Teahon, Tami Evans and Pat Horn for their inspection duties.

**I-80, Shelton to Wood River** was



Lyle Kohmetscher



Jay Gustafson



Doug Lollman



Josh Willard



Ben Merchant

recognized with the **Smoothest Pavement Award**. Ben Merchant of District 4 in Grand Island received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. Vontz Paving, Inc. of Hastings, Nebraska, was recognized as the prime contractor for the 8.4-mile project along I-80 between the Shelton and Wood River Interchanges. The project earned an overall smoothness incentive adjustment of 106.686% with 107% corresponding to an IRI of zero! This project included some concrete pavement repair work and cold milling, and the placement of 9,120 tons of asphaltic concrete Type LC that was overlain with 22,210 tons of SP5. Also, 10,800 tons of SPS were placed on the shoulders. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Wade Harris and Dan Schleichardt for their roles as inspectors. ♦

# Fisher Named Project Manager of the Year

Rick Fisher, of Omaha, was honored by the Nebraska Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) as Nebraska Department of Roads' Project Manager of the Year. Fisher received a traveling trophy and a plaque at the Project Managers' Conference in Kearney on March 5.

Fisher has worked at NDOR for the past 30 years, beginning his career in District 2 in 1982 and working his way up through the ranks to earn a Project Manager position in 1998. He is currently managing a project on Highway 75, Bellevue-Plattsmouth.

Tom Crockett, Project Manager for Hawkins Construction Company, noted, "I have worked closely with Rick on a couple of projects, including I-80, Missouri River to 13th Street, in Omaha, in 2011, and on Highway 75, Bellevue-Plattsmouth, in 2012 and this year. It is a pleasure to work with him as he manages consistently with an eye out for potential problems and the right thing to do for both the owner and the contractor."

The award is presented annually by the AGC to a NDOR project manager who has upheld the standards of conducting business within the highway construction industry with the highest level of ethics and integrity. The trophy is called the Lyle Leader Memorial Award in tribute to Mr. Leader, who was a project manager at NDOR for 34 years. He was active in the District 3 Hartington office at the time of his death in August 1991 and was highly respected by his peers within the department and by the contractor members of AGC.

All contractor members submitted a nomination for this award and the nominees were voted upon by the members of the AGC. For the year 2013, Fisher received the high honor. ♦



Photo by Jay Bailey

**Pictured, l to r:** Claude Oie, NDOR Construction Engineer; Rick Fisher, 2013 Project Manager of the Year; and Steve Peck, President, Nebraska AGC.

**2013 National Work Zone Awareness Week**  
 April 15-19, 2013

## Work Zone Safety

## We're All In This Together

THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA  
Quality People. Quality Projects.

Virginia Department of Transportation

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

District Department of Transportation

State Highway Administration

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS



# Signature Award Goes to Tom Crockett

Tom Crockett, Project Manager, Vice President of Hawkins Construction Company, Omaha, Nebraska, received the 2013 Signature Award for excellent work on Nebraska Department of Roads projects. He was honored at ceremonies during the 2013 Project Managers' Conference March 5-7 in Kearney.

Bob Rankin, Assistant District 1 Construction Engineer, presented the award to Crockett and provided comments on behalf of Curt Mueting, District 1 Construction Engineer. He highlighted many qualities that made Crockett deserving of this award, including leadership, communication, problem-solving, scheduling, and organizational skills, along with concern for safety and his overall attitude. He emphasized one exceptional trait, teamwork, citing examples of Tom's teamwork in action, including the effectiveness of his weekly project meetings, particularly on the recent reconstruction projects on I-80 between Lincoln and Omaha.

"Everyone was a part of the meeting and expected to take part in the meeting...It didn't matter if you were a consultant, subcontractor, utility company, landowner or NDOR staff, you were and part of the team and input from all was very important to the success of the project...Due to this teamwork attitude and a multitude of other qualities this person has, that year's work on one of the reconstruction projects on I-80 between Lincoln and Omaha was completed without issue and the final touches were completed on the project in early summer of 2012."

In his nomination form, Jim England, Project Manager in District 1, Lincoln, noted that Crockett is well organized and communicates very well with all levels of workers and inspector, stating, "Tom keeps lines of communications open by attending weekly partnering meetings. He will ask his staff what they are working on and if they have problems or input for the meeting, and he will ask inspectors if they have concerns about what is going on."



*Photo by Jay Bailey*  
Pictured, l to r: Claude Oie, NDOR Construction Engineer; Tom Crockett, recipient of the 2013 Signature Award; and Bob Rankin, District 1 Assistant Construction Engineer

As far as problem-solving, he noted, "With Tom's experience in construction, he is seldom stumped and usually has an idea with a resource to easily remedy things in the field."

Commenting on whether he would want to work with Crockett again, England noted, "I began my project management career with the Department of Roads on a project at the I-80 Mahoney Interchange with Tom as the job superintendent. He has always been fair, speaks the truth and is ready to resolve any problems that may arise during the project from beginning to end. I have enjoyed working with him and would be glad to be asked to work on another project with him."

The Signature Award is given by NDOR District Construction Engineers to individuals in the contracting industry possessing certain characteristics, including excellence in leadership, good communication, problem solving, organization, attitude, safety, and achieving above and beyond standard management practices. In addition to receiving a trophy, plaque and having their names added to a permanent plaque at the NDOR Central Headquarters, a \$500 scholarship is given in the recipient's name to a University of Nebraska student majoring in construction engineering or construction management. ♦

***Don't Magnify  
Your Risk  
of an Accident***

***Pay Attention  
in Work Zones!***



# NDOR's Second Annual Winter Party Entertains

Food and festivities were plentiful for the 164 people who attended NDOR's 2nd Annual Winter Party on Friday, February 1. The event was held after working hours at the Shriner's Great Hall and paid for by those in attendance.

Lincoln-area NDOR employees and their guests enjoyed socializing, dinner and dancing to music by "No Apparent Reason" and the "Fabulous Rea Brothers" bands. Band members Mark Lindemann, Scott Waddle, Wes Stebbins (outside of DOR), Bob, Tom and Dan Rea, who are also NDOR employees, played a variety of songs from rock 'n roll to country. Dinner was catered by Tastefully Yours and table decorations were provided by Rhonda and Dean DeButts.

Winners of door prizes, \$20 gift certificates to Applebees, Olive Garden, Super Saver, Hy-Vee and Menards,

were: Mike Rea, Paul Rea, Joe Rea (wouldn't accept gift card!), Charmaine Rea, Ray Beeman, Diane Beeman, Bradette Varilek, Jeff Sears, Kathie Osterman (2nd year in a row!) and Kristy Hubert. Looks like the Rea's capitalized on the gift cards and family gathering!

Pat Brunken and Linda "Zip" Masek, organizers of the event, had additional help selling tickets from Joy Mullen-dore, Joey Kramer and Lori Larson.

Reserve the date, Friday, February 7, 2014, for the 3rd Annual Winter Party!♦



Photos by  
Linda "Zip" Masek & Paul Rea







# What is MRSA?



By Carol Marshall, RN

MRSA is an acronym for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus. It is an antibiotic resistant bacteria that grows in clusters, multiplies very rapidly and can cause many different kinds of infection, ranging from simple skin

infections (boils, furuncles) to septicemia (infection of the bloodstream) and toxic shock syndrome. The difference between MRSA and common staph infections is that MRSA is resistant to antibiotics such as Penicillin Methacillin Amoxicillin and Oxacillin, and can become deadly. MRSA is popularly termed in the press as a "superbug."

Garden-variety staph are common bacteria that can live in our bodies. Many healthy people carry staph without being infected by it. In fact, 25 to 30 percent of us have staph bacteria in our noses. But staph can be a problem if it manages to get into the body, often through a cut. Once there, it can cause an infection. Staph is one of the most common causes of skin infections in the U.S. Usually, these are minor and don't need special treatment. Less often, staph can cause serious problems like infected wounds or pneumonia. While some antibiotics still work, MRSA is constantly adapting to resist new antibiotics. Researchers developing new antibiotics are having a tough time keeping up.

## Incidence Rising

MRSA infections are common among people who have weak immune systems and are in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care centers. Infections can appear around surgical wounds or invasive devices like catheters, IV's or implanted devices. These infections are considered hospital-associated MRSA, and the incidence

is rising throughout the world. Hospital-acquired MRSA is very serious and can be deadly. Alarming, MRSA is also showing up in healthy people who have not been hospitalized. This type is called community-associated MRSA (CA-MRSA) and is transmitted from person to person by direct contact with the skin, clothing or area that had recent physical contact with a MRSA-infected person. This could include athletic facilities, dormitories, etc.

Staph skin infections, including MRSA, generally start as small red bumps that resemble pimples, boils or spider bites. These can quickly turn into deep, painful abscesses that require surgical draining. Sometimes the bacteria remain confined to the skin. But they can also burrow deep into the body, causing potentially life-threatening infections in bones, joints, surgical wounds, the bloodstream, heart valves and lungs. Keep an eye on minor skin problems—pimples, insect bites, cuts and scrapes. If wounds become infected, see your doctor. Do not attempt to treat a MRSA infection yourself. You could worsen it or spread it to others.

## Prevention and Treatment

To prevent community-associated MRSA:

- Practice good hygiene. Wash your hands frequently!
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages
- Avoid sharing personal items, such as towels, washcloths, razors or clothes
- Wash soiled sheets, towels and clothes in hot water with bleach and dry in a hot dryer

If a wound appears to be infected, see a healthcare provider. Treatment may include draining the infection and antibiotics.

## Correspondents Keep Pulse on News

Twenty-eight individuals perform the role of tracking newsworthy activities of NDOR employees. They gather news for the *Roadrunner's All in the Family* section, including births, deaths, weddings, and graduations along with other newsworthy items. Please support your correspondents in their efforts to provide timely, accurate information.

Bridge.....Lori Larson  
Business Tech Support.....Trish Sanchez  
Communication.....Linda Wilson  
Construction.....Agnes Masek  
Controller.....Brenda Hain  
Director's Office.....Verneda Kelly  
Human Resources.....Diane Holthus  
Legal.....Twila Avey  
Materials & Research.....Barb Traudt  
Operations.....Liz Salisbury  
Planning & Project  
Development.....Sandra Knippelmeyer  
Linda Langdale

Program Management.....Kendall Tonjes  
Rail & Pubic Transportation.....Charlie Bowlby  
Right-of-Way.....Nicolette Klein  
Roadway Design.....Sandra Schuelke  
Traffic Engineering.....Bobbi Olson  
Hwy. Safety Sec. ....Jean Uarich, Joyce Weeks  
District 1.....Linda Piening  
District 2.....Connie Diblasi  
District 3.....Judy Schoenfeldt  
District 4.....Esther Shepherd  
District 5.....Cindy Vergil  
District 6.....Karen Swedberg  
District 7.....Jan Collins  
District 8.....Erin Allen

## Service Awards

**Congratulations** to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *April and May 2013*.

### 50 Years

Robert Fischer, Right-of-Way

### 40 Years

Mark Bamesberger, Mtrls. & Research  
Dennis Endorf, District 1  
Rodney Favors, District 3  
Pege Gross-Rhode, Communication  
Dan Lange, Roadway Design  
Donald Norcott, District 5

### 30 Years

Gary Brinker, District 6  
Dale Byre Jr, Mtrls. & Research  
Dean Debutts, Mtrls. & Research  
Dean Dowding, District 1  
Steven Ferguson, Bridge  
Michael Fitl, District 1  
Stanley Frye, District 2  
Stanley Gibbs, District 6  
Scott Grossenbacher, Mtrls. & Research  
Michael Habegger, District 1  
Bernice Kepford, Communication  
Michael McIntosh, District 6  
Mae Meyer, District 4  
Steven Moore, Program Management  
Jimmy Morphew, District 6  
Charles Thomsen, District 6  
Marty Weander, District 2  
Timothy Weander, District 2

### 20 Years

James DeLarm, District 4

### 10 Years

Kevin Bykerk, District 4  
Terry Cummins, District 1  
Brad Finch, Mtrls. & Research  
Bradley Garbers, Roadway Design  
Eric Hageman, District 7  
James Hoover, District 8  
Kyle Parsons, District 2

# All in the Family

**Information for "All in the Family" should be sent to the Communication Division. Appropriate information will be included in future Roadrunners.**

**Please note:** Birth announcements will be published as long as written permission is received by the Communication Division. This is necessary, as NDOR is required to adhere to privacy laws under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

## Births

Congratulations to Janie Vrtiska on the birth of her second grandchild. Jack William Boyer was born March 5. Janie is the Fleet Manager for Operations.

Kim and Bruce Colgrove would like to announce the birth of their twin grandchildren, Abigail Lynn and Tyler James born February 6. Kim is an Office Clerk III in Highway Safety, Traffic Engineering.

Congratulations to Jamie and Cory Reinke on the birth of their daughter Annaleigh Layne on December 5. Jamie is a Hydraulics Engineer in Bridge.

Congratulations to Mark and Darcy Ahlman on the birth of their fourth grandchild, Matthias Timothy James, born January 24. Mark is an Assistant Bridge Engineer in Bridge.

## Weddings

Congratulations to Cole Davison and Megan Wacker on their March 23 wedding. Cole is an IT Data/Database Analyst Sr. in Business Technology Support.

## Condolences

Operations sends condolences to Ken Peterson, on the death of his mother. Ken is an Accounting Clerk I. Also to Tyler Helgoth, whose father recently passed away. Tyler is a Facilities Maintenance Specialist.

Condolences to Jill McAuliffe on the passing of her mother, LaVerta Van Winkle-Emshoff. LaVerta worked at NDOR for 18½ years in Archives and the Construction Division. She retired from NDOR in 1990. Jill is Administrative Assistant to the Director-State Engineer.

Business Technology Support sends condolences to Pat and Tony Cruz on the death of his mother. Pat is the Help Desk Supervisor in BTSD.

Right-of-Way sends condolences to Mark Lorenz on the death of his father. Mark is an Appraiser III. And to Bruce Roberts on the death of his mother. Bruce is an Appraiser II.

Condolences to Carol Diedrichsen on the death of her mother. Carol is a Staff Assistant at the District 3 Maintenance office in Neligh.

District 4 sends condolences to Randy and Donna Sabata on the death of Donna's mother. Randy is Hwy. Maintenance Superintendent in Hastings. Also to Rod Zulkoski & family on the death of Rod's father. Rod is a Hwy. Construction Tech II in Grand island.

## This 'n That

Melissa Brady, granddaughter of Betty Schneider, graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, December 15, 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Betty is an Office Clerk III in Right-of-Way.

Trent Tucker, 6th grader, and Chase Tucker, 7th grader at Lux Middle School, made the honor roll for the 1st semester of the 2012-2013 school year. Trent and Chase are the sons of Sherri Bridges. Sherri is a Highway Bridge Data Technician in Bridge.

District 4 sends best wishes to Smokey Nordhues and Ted Gillham on their recent retirements. Smokey was a Construction Tech II with 22 years of service and Ted was a Construction Tech III with 13 years of service.

Isabelle Vlach swam in the Midwestern Championships meet in March, for the Grand Island YMCA Quicksilver. She placed 6th in the 100 Freestyle, 4th in the 100 Backstroke, 5th in the 50 Backstroke and 6th in the 200 Backstroke. Isabelle set new Quicksilver team records in the 100 freestyle and the 200 backstroke in her age division (11-12 yr. olds). Isabelle is the daughter of Mikki Vlach, Staff Assistant at District 4 in Grand Island.





# NDOR Events Calendar

## — April —

### Distracted Driving Awareness Month

- 1 - 30 Great Nebraska Trash-Off**  
[www.nebraskatransportation.org/operations/maintenance/adopt.htm](http://www.nebraskatransportation.org/operations/maintenance/adopt.htm)
- 5 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**  
 Meeting 8:45 a.m. Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
 Examination 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. NDOR Auditorium  
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 10 RoadToasters**  
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
 Contact Brad Finch @ 402-479-3686
- 15 - 19 National Work Zone Awareness Week**  
[www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz\\_awareness.htm](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm)
- 17 Nebraska Spring Walk to School Day**  
[www.saferoutesne.com/](http://www.saferoutesne.com/)
- 17 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**  
 NDOR Central Headquarters  
 Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580
- 18 Letting**  
 1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium  
 Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 19 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**  
 9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 22 Earth Day**  
[www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)
- 24 RoadToasters**  
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
 Contact Brad Finch @ 402-479-3686
- 26 State Holiday – Arbor Day**
- 4/30 - 5/2 Operations & Maintenance Conference**  
 Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, Kearney

## — May —

### Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

[www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles](http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles)

- 3 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**  
 10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 8 RoadToasters**  
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
 Contact Brad Finch @ 402-479-3686
- 12 - 18 National Transportation Week**  
[www.ndtahq.com/events\\_national\\_trans\\_week.htm](http://www.ndtahq.com/events_national_trans_week.htm)
- 13 - 17 National Bike-to-Work Week**  
[www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org)

- 14 New Employee Orientation Program**  
 Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")  
 Contact Denice Sears @ 402-479-3656
- 17 Hwy. Commission Meeting**  
 8:30 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
 Contact Greg Weinert @ 402-479-4871
- 17 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**  
 9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 22 RoadToasters**  
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
 Contact Brad Finch @ 402-479-3686
- 23 Letting**  
 1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium  
 Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 27 State Holiday – Memorial Day**

## — June —

### National Safety Month

<http://www.nsc.org/Pages/JuneisNationalSafetyMonth.aspx>

- 1 National Trails Day**  
<http://www.americanhiking.org/NTD.aspx>
- 1 - 9 Nebraska Wildflower Week**  
<http://arboretum.unl.edu/wildflower-week>
- 12 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**  
 NDOR Central Headquarters  
 Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580
- 12 RoadToasters**  
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
 Contact Brad Finch @ 402-479-3686
- 21 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**  
 9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 26 RoadToasters**  
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
 Contact Brad Finch @ 402-479-3686
- 27 Letting**  
 1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium  
 Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 28 Hwy. Commission Meeting/ District 8 Program Hearing**  
 8:30 a.m., Ainsworth City Conference Center,  
 606 E. 4th St., Ainsworth, NE  
 Contact Greg Weinert @ 402-479-4871

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail [linda.wilson@nebraska.gov](mailto:linda.wilson@nebraska.gov). Information for the June/July Roadrunner should be received by May 31, 2013.